

REMARKS

Applicant notes the restriction requirement issued on December 22, 2008. This restriction has been issued after the filing of several amendments during prosecution of this case and after a prior art search has already been performed by the Examiner. Therefore, it appears that the claims would not require separate classification or different fields of search. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully asserts that it would not unduly burden the Examiner to examine all of the pending claims together.

The claimed invention relates to intra-agent mobility. The Examiner has divided the claims into five different embodiments represented by FIGs. 4B, 4C, 6B, 7B, and 8B. The embodiments and corresponding figures selected by the Examiner merely disclose a registration process (FIGs. 4B and 4C), an example routing table (FIG. 6B), an example mobility binding table (FIG. 7B), and an example visitor table (FIG. 8B).

Applicant notes that FIG. 4A is the figure that most accurately represents intra-agent mobility, as claimed. Claims 26-57 are directed to the intra-agent mobility registration process shown and described with reference to FIG. 4A. Blocks in FIG. 4A reference both FIG. 4B and FIG. 4C. (None of the claims directly reads on FIG. 4B or 4C, which merely show simplified registration processes. However, of all of the species, these claims are most closely related to species I, shown as FIG. 4B, as specified by the Examiner.) Thus, Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 26-57 fall within species I.

Claims 1-8 recite a mobility binding table maintained by a Home Agent and a visitor table maintained by a Foreign Agent. Claims 9-18 recite a Home Agent having a mobility binding table and a Foreign Agent having a visitor table. Thus, claims 1-18 most closely read on species IV since each recites a mobility binding table. Similarly, claims 1-18 also most

closely read on species V since each recites a visitor table. Thus, claims 1-18 fall within species IV and species V.

The claims in species I and species IV/V each relate to intra-agent mobility, as shown and described with reference to FIG. 4A. More specifically, claims 26-57 in species I relate to a process of performing registration using intra-agent mobility, while claims 1-18 in species IV/V relate to an apparatus supporting intra-agent mobility. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-18 should be examined with the claims of group I.

Applicant further notes that claims 19-21 recite a router having a routing table, and claims 22-24 recite a mobility binding table, falling within groups III and IV, respectively.

Even if the claims are drawn to patentably distinct or independent inventions, MPEP § 803 provides that “[i]f the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.” Although the scope of the claims of group I and groups IV/V vary and Applicant agrees that the claims are patentably distinct, many of the claimed features are similar. For example, each of the claims relate to the implementation of intra-agent mobility. Accordingly, although it is acknowledged that the inventions of groups I and IV/V are patentably distinct, Applicant respectfully submits that it would not unduly burden the examiner to simultaneously examine the claims of groups I and IV/V.

If there are any issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Applicants hereby petition for an extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee for such extension or any further fee required in connection with the filing of this Amendment is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 504880 (Order No. CISCP09C1).

Respectfully submitted,
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